

IN GREAT DANGER.

A Break in the Dike at Pekin, Ill., May Cause a Loss of Millions of Dollars Worth of Property.—The Situation in Other Flooded Sections.

PEKIN, Ill., May 7.—There is great consternation in Pekin and in the country thereabouts. The big dike in the Lamar drainage district began giving way Friday evening and the people are fleeing for their lives. The dike was commenced in 1890 and was completed this year at an enormous cost. It is 10 miles long and 15 feet high. There is a big pumping station and much valuable machinery already under water.

The people in the entire district are getting out as fast as they can. No attempt is being made to save any property, as there is no time to spare. It is feared in this city that there will be many lives lost as all the people in the valley cannot be warned. The loss already in sight will reach into millions of dollars.

The Illinois river at this point is rising at an alarming rate. It is now 20 feet above low-water mark and is rising at the rate of 3 feet in twenty-four hours. It is now higher than it has been since 1844. The lowlands on the Tazewell side are completely inundated. One farmer lost four horses Thursday night and narrowly escaped with his life. All travel over the bridges has been stopped, as there is an average of 9 feet of water over the approaches for a distance of a mile. Some farmers who rode through Friday morning report the approaches washed out. They had to take passage on a steamer to Spring Bay in order to get home. All the docks in the city are covered with water, and the river is now encroaching on the railroad tracks.

The people who live in the valley have been forced to move to the hills and their houses are filled with water to a depth of 5 feet. Great damage is being done to the crops. It is said that nearly all the bridges on the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy road between here and Galesburg are twisted out of shape. All trains are late and numerous small wrecks are reported.

OTTAWA, Ill., May 7.—Seas of water are over and in the five unfortunate Illinois cities, Ottawa, Marseilles, Peru, La Salle and Utica. The Illinois has risen steadily. Friday night the cities were in total darkness, the result of the flooding of the electric light and gas plants. Boats are used for communication. Despite all efforts, the manufacturing district was totally covered by water Friday afternoon. As the water rose building after building would close down and the employees leave to await the subsiding of the flood. It will be two or three days before the more fortunate of the flooded factories can be entered at all, and it will take as much longer to remove the accumulations of mud and debris which came with the inundation. Ottawa will be helpless for a week at least.

Marseilles, La Salle and Utica are in an even more desperate condition. At Marseilles the river, steadily rising, is more and more dreaded as the levees weaken. There is little hope they will stand much longer and everyone in the district threatened has removed all property to high ground. At La Salle the situation is even more desperate than it was Thursday night, the water having advanced from two to three feet all around the city and the manufacturing, the waterworks, street railway and electric light plants still being under water. At Utica the waters have encroached still further upon the lower end of the village from the river and the outlets east and west are blocked by water.

PASA, Ill., May 7.—About 10 o'clock Thursday night a cyclone passed in an easterly direction through the country about 4 miles from here. All the windows in a newly erected farmhouse owned by Mr. Barth were blown in and the house split wide open. A great deal of damage was done to buildings and fences, but no lives were lost.

GOSHEN, Ind., May 7.—The Elkhart river is higher than ever before known and is still rising. It is now half way up the temporary embankments which had been placed on the approaches to the dam and grave fears are entertained as to the latter's safety.

WARREN, Ind., May 7.—A small cyclone swept through the northwest part of this county late Friday night, doing considerable damage to fences and buildings. The roof of a dwelling on the farm of Maj. Kidd was torn off and carried some distance, and large trees in the vicinity were twisted and hundreds of rods of fence laid flat.

FLINT, Mich., May 7.—This part of the state has been visited by heavy rains lately. Thursday night's fall was so great that Flint river is flooded and serious damage is looked for. The Flint P. Smith Lumber Company's boom gave way and about 1,000,000 feet of Norway pine logs went rushing downstream. The loss will be heavy.

KEOKUK, Ia., May 7.—The Mississippi river has been rapidly rising for two days, approaching the extreme high water mark. The lowlands are submerged and crops are ruined. Farmers have taken their stock and families to high ground for protection. The small levees along the Des Moines and Fox rivers have broken and large tracts are submerged, but the main levee protecting 11,000 acres is yet safe. Alexandria, Mo., is surrounded by water and travel and traffic is conducted in skiffs. The railroad tracks are submerged in places, but the roads are yet safe. Should the rise continue much longer there will be a repetition of the disastrous floods of four years ago.

TRAIN ROBBER KILLED.

E. E. Liddell, Leader of a Notorious Gang, Shot Down by Officers.

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., May 7.—At Pratt mines Friday morning E. E. Liddell and C. T. Miller broke into Giff's jewelry store. A detective named McDaniel had learned of the plan and ten officers who were hidden under the store rushed out and called on the burglars to surrender. Liddell ran and was fired upon and killed. Before dying he confessed that he was the leader of the gang of train robbers that held up a Georgia Pacific train at Weems in March. Miller was caught and jailed.

DISASTER IN KANSAS.

Heavy Rains Cause the Drowning of a Farmer's Dugout and Five of His Children Are Killed.—Further Reports from Water-Soaked Districts in Various States.—Farmers Greatly Discouraged.

KANSAS CITY, Mo., May 10.—C. H. Wilkins, a colored farmer, lived at Anthony, Kan., in a dugout, together with his wife and five children. The heavy rain of the last few days loosened the earth so that it caved in, killing all five of the children and fatally wounding Mrs. Wilkins. The husband escaped with a broken leg and sprained back.

CEBAR RAPIDS, Ia., May 10.—It has been raining here almost continuously for the last thirty-six hours. Farmers, who were already far behind with their work, are almost discouraged. There has been not less than 12 or 14 inches of rain in the last two weeks and the ground is soaking. The roads are in an almost impassable condition and the city is threatened with a wood famine, as farmers cannot get into town.

DES MOINES, Ia., May 10.—It has been raining in central Iowa since Sunday afternoon. A large amount of water has fallen and the farming prospects are correspondingly gloomy. Not an acre of corn has been planted and hardly any plowing has been done. The only crop that is succeeding is grass and that is doing remarkably well. Wheat and oats, what little were planted, begin to look yellow on all the lower lands. Reports all agree that farmers are losing courage and unless there is a sudden change in the weather a great deal of the land will remain unplanted this year.

BURLINGTON, Ia., May 10.—There is little change for the better in the flood situation here. The river fell about 3 inches Monday and enabled the St. Louis, Keokuk & Northwestern trains to run through from St. Louis via Keokuk as usual. The trains are all late, however, and trainmen report that they had to plow through 2 feet of water at Alexandria, Mo. Word from that modern Venice says the situation is no better and not much worse. People are still hovering about on highlands, filled with sad forebodings of a summer of yellow ague. It rained off and on all Monday, and the prospects in the country are still of the gloomiest aspect. The situation is becoming alarming to both farmers and business men.

LINCOLN, Neb., May 10.—It has been raining for thirty-six hours and the bottoms are flooded. Between 200 and 300 families have been driven out of their homes. The suffering and desolation will be great, as most of the people are poor.

GRANDE, Ill., May 10.—It has rained here for many hours and farmers are greatly discouraged. The most valuable corn lands along Rock and Green rivers are from 3 to 5 feet under water. The 4,000-acre farm 11 miles east of here, owned by Samuel W. Allerton, of Chicago, is all under water. Eighty-five acres of corn on this farm are from 3 to 8 feet under water. No corn can be raised on the river bottoms this year and thousands of acres of fine hay lands have been ruined. Farmers on these bottoms are in worse luck than they have been in twenty years.

ST. LOUIS, May 10.—"Old Missip" is a boom" here and has reached the danger line even at this point, where the bank rises rapidly away from the stream. Much movable property along the shore from the northern end of the city to the south has whirled away and lumber and rails from the north are being tied down and otherwise secured to prevent their sudden disappearance before they can be taken apart and placed on shore.

The greatest havoc has been created in the "squatter" settlement called "Oldahoma," half a mile below the Merchant's bridge. Here dozens of house boats and cabins formerly on the shore are either half under water or floating down the river. The lumber yards along the river front are in danger of changing owners, while the steamer lines centering here find no room on the levee to store their surplus freight when their wharves overflow. No serious damage has yet been reported, but the river is at the danger line, 28 feet, and what another day's rise may do to the cotton stored in some of the levee cellars is yet to be told.

REFORMERS TO MEET.

A Call Issued for a Gathering in Cincinnati.—The Object.

CHICAGO, May 10.—G. M. Miller, of Chicago, representing the executive committee of the national reformers, has issued a call for a meeting to be held in the parlors of the Palace hotel, Cincinnati, O., June 28, to determine what part the organization should take in the approaching campaign. The call says among other things:

"The object of the national reformers has not been to maintain an additional political party, but has been to unite the aggressive reform forces of the nation on the financial, land, transportation and reform issues, and suppression of the liquor traffic. We believe that the genuine reform elements are rapidly becoming ready for such union, and that by wise counsel and prudent procedure on the part of those who are fully aroused to the necessity of union, this vitally important result may be effected in the near future. We therefore invite all such of whatever party, to join us in an informal conference for the purpose of adopting some plan by which to promote fraternal relations between the reform parties, to the end that a union may be effected, and if this be not at present practicable that such attitude may be maintained by the respective parties toward each other that union against the united evils which they oppose may be effected at a later date, and if deemed wise to appoint an appropriate committee to secure a favorable consideration of such policy of fraternity and union by the national convention of the prohibition and people's parties respectively."

DEATH IN A MINE.

Five Colliers in Belgium Dashed to Pieces.

BRUSSELS, May 10.—A fatal accident occurred at the Trieluisin colliery at Gilly, a village 3 miles northeast of Hainault. The day shift were entering the pit, and the cage was crowded with miners who were being lowered into the mine. Suddenly the chain by which the cage was raised and lowered broke, and its occupants were precipitated to the bottom of the pit. Five of the miners were instantly killed and some of the others were badly injured.

STILL RAGING.

Floods Continue Their Work of Destruction in Illinois, Indiana, Missouri and Kansas.

PEORIA, Ill., May 9.—Thousands of people on Sunday visited the inundated districts surrounding this city. The river is still a raging torrent, with a roar that can be heard for a long distance. The cattle pens of the lower sugar works, in which thousands of head are fed, are under water, and unless the water quickly subsides the cattle must be removed.

At least 150 families of 500 souls on the river banks in this city, between here and Pekin, and in the La Marsh drainage district, have been driven from their homes by the rapidly rising waters. When the dyke in the La Marsh drainage district broke men were sent out to warn the people in the bottom, about thirty families living there. Some of them were on the roofs of houses and barns, while others had climbed trees as a measure of protection. Hogs and calves had been taken up on the roofs, too, but horses and cattle were left to their own resources. One man had sought refuge in a wagon box and taken a pig in with him. When the water raised the box began floating about the district, and he drifted with the tide.

All the residents have been accounted for with the single exception of the family of George Nichols. Many took refuge on this side of the river, but they have all been heard from. Nichols lived in a small house at the extreme lower end of the district, so far that it was impossible to prepare him for the threatened catastrophe.

OTTAWA, Ill., May 9.—The cool, dry weather of the last few days has removed a load of anxiety from the people hereabout. The great flood, unparalleled since 1844, is subsiding.

Wednesday's cloudburst has cost the people of the Illinois, Fox and Kankakee valleys some millions of dollars. As the waters recede the full extent of the damage becomes apparent. The heaviest losses are to farmers. Thousands of acres of newly planted crops have been washed out and totally destroyed. Roads have been destroyed and bridges and culverts swept away. At many points where the lands lie low whole farms have been inundated and the only property saved is that in the second stories of barns and houses. Along the river banks in the towns and cities the damage to manufacturing interests has been great, but the loss to farming interests is now widespread and will entail great hardship.

The river towns from Joliet to Peoria are the heaviest sufferers by the stoppage of manufactures. Within a radius of 10 miles from Ottawa the direct losses from the flood are estimated at \$100,000. At Marseilles, Ottawa, Utica, Peru and La Salle hundreds of men have been temporarily thrown out of employment. The sudden rise of water has destroyed manufacturing plants or rendered them useless.

ALEXANDRIA, Mo., May 9.—Another period of high water has struck this devoted country and for awhile it looked as if the unprecedented floods of 1881 were to be repeated. The worst damage has resulted in and around the town, which is periodically subject to rapid rises of the Mississippi. Fox, Skunk and Des Moines rivers. The great and continued rains of the last few weeks have swollen the upper rivers and streams, making great lakes of them and submerging the surrounding farming country, carrying off stock and small buildings and doing thousands of dollars of damage. Thousands of acres of wheat in Clark county, Mo., are now submerged. Stockmen are taking their animals to the highlands, and the inhabitants of Alexandria are preparing to take their families to a place of safety. People now go about this modern Venice in boats, and there is a great demand for this means of locomotion. The business in the town is, in some lines, at a standstill.

GOSHEN, Ind., May 9.—After all danger was thought to be over the big Goshen dam broke Saturday night and let an awful flood of water over the river bottoms between here and Elkhart. The water had fallen 2 feet Saturday and every one had begun hoping that the crisis was past. The dam, which was erected in 1860 at a cost of \$18,000, will be at once rebuilt.

FORT WAYNE, Ind., May 9.—Reports of extensive devastation by the waters of the St. Joseph, St. Mary and Maumee rivers continue to come in. Not less than 500 farms on the lowlands were overflowed and a great deal of timber that was cut for the mills went down the stream.

KANSAS CITY, Mo., May 9.—Accounts of floods have been coming in from all over western Missouri and eastern Kansas, telling of flooded rivers and overflowing creeks and streams. In some localities the towns have been flooded and some damage is reported to dwellings by having their foundations washed out. The floods came so suddenly in other districts that the farmers had no time to prepare for them, and much of their stock has been drowned and washed away.

In Oklahoma territory a steady pouring rain has been falling for twenty-four hours and half the streams in the territory are out of their banks. Many bridges have been washed away. Nearly all the overland mails have been abandoned. The Santa Fe has suffered several washouts and trains are badly delayed.

TO BE TRIED FOR MURDER.

Head Brakeman G. W. Irwin Held Responsible for a Wreck.

DIXON, Ill., May 9.—George W. Irwin, whose criminal carelessness on the Illinois Central railroad at Sublette Tuesday night, resulted in the death of Engineer Trude, and the serious injury of several others, was placed under arrest in Amboy Thursday. He was brought to this city by Deputy Sheriff Norman Jewett, and placed in the county jail to await the action of the coroner's jury. Irwin is a young man, and was the head brakeman of the ill-fated freight train. The charge against Irwin is murder.

MISCELLANEOUS.

—Customer—"I sent my maid here for some sticking plaster, and you gave her a porous plaster." New Boy—"Yes'm. That's the stickiest plaster I know of."

—How Sad.—Fran Z.—"Shall you be going to some watering place?" Frau L.—"Alas! no; unfortunately my husband isn't suffering from gout this year."—Flora.

—"Do you propose to marry for love or for money?" "Well, I shouldn't consider a moderate dose of love any objection if she has lots of money."—Dansville Breeze.

—"O, mamma! There was such a gang of duds on the corner—" "Daughter, dear, how often must I reprove you for using slang? You should not say a 'gang' of duds; say a 'bevy'."—Indianapolis Journal.

—Cutting Down His Income.—Beaver—"Robinson tells me that his salary has been reduced." Melton—"For what cause?" Beaver—"He has just been taken into the firm."—Tom Mason, in Cloak Review.

—Mrs. Jones—"I took tea at Mrs. Brown's last evening. There was a magnificent array of silver, but very little to eat." Mrs. Robinson—"As usual at Mrs. Brown's table. Everything plated but the food."—Boston Transcript.

—Miss Fortied—"Dear me, how you are freed! I should feel awful to have my face like that! Miss Young—"But then there is no danger of being freed when one is on the shady side."—Boston Transcript.

—Johnny had been studying the advertising columns of the newspaper for an hour, at the end of which time he looked up and inquired in a perplexed tone, "Ma, how is it there are so many different kinds of toilet soap that are all the best?"

—John and Samuel Manning, twin brothers, living on the same farm near Reserve, Ind., married twin sisters in 1881, both of whom died in 1889. In 1891 the brothers became acquainted with twin sisters named Swope, and there was another double marriage.

—According to theosophists 360 days and nights of Brahma make one year of Brahma, and 100 years of Brahma make the great Kalpa, a period of 311,040,000,000 years, after which the entire solar system passes into its night, and everything in it is destroyed on the objective plane.

—From an ancient account book found at Eastport, Me., it appears that in 1797 tobacco was sold by the yard in that settlement. The limited purchasing power of a day's wages at that period is shown by the price of nails—1 1/2¢ a pound. A day's ordinary wages would pay for about four pounds of nails.

—Speaking of the extravagance of women of our day, Marie de Medicis had a gown with 32,000 pearls and 3,000 diamonds, and her example was followed by lesser personages, who cheerfully expended more than their incomes on gowns so laden with precious stones that their wearers could scarcely move about in them.

—A beach may resist the sea for years, yet in a few hours it may be stripped bare to the solid rock. Shells may be covering the bottom a mile off shore, undisturbed by inshore gales; a storm, with winds and waves apparently much the same as usual, may sweep them all on shore. In other words, the will of old ocean in modifying shore lines is practically irresistible and his occasional devastation remediless.

—During October of this year a fair will be held in San Francisco under the joint auspices of the California world's fair commission and the Mechanics' institute. Exhibits, classified by counties, will be shown from every portion of the state, and special efforts are being made to have them of the most complete and representative character.

—In Pelham's "Collection of Travels" (1806), referring to one of the Pacific islands, mention is made of a woman who was seen shaving a child's head with a shark's tooth, fastened into the end of a stick. The hair was first wetted with a rag dipped in water, and then, by a proper application of the instrument, she completed the business as effectually as if a razor had been employed.

—B. R. Young and his family were traveling in a prairie schooner near Palomas, Mexico, when a loaded gun in the wagon in front was discharged accidentally. The ball pierced Young's shoulder, passed through his son's hip, then through the baby's head, and struck the shoulder of Mrs. Mary Roberts, a daughter of Mr. Young. Father and son were seriously wounded, the baby was instantly killed, but Mrs. Roberts received only a slight wound.

—Lumbermen returning from the headwaters of the Machias river, Maine, report that the weather was so warm in that region during January that hornets left their hives. On January 10 a teamster in township 41 accidentally drove into a hornet's nest hanging from a bush, and the hornets, aroused by the collision, issued in fierce swarms and stung the horses so badly that they broke and ran two miles to the hotel before they could be stopped.

—The Windsor castle, a residence of the British sovereigns, was begun by William the Conqueror, and enlarged by Henry I. about 1110. Edward III., who was born here, November 13, 1312, caused the old building, with the exception of three towers at the west end, to be taken down, and re-erected the whole castle under the direction of William of Wykeham, 1350, and built St. George's chapel. He assessed every county in England to send him workmen. James I. Scotland was imprisoned here, 1405-23.

Words Were Needless.

"I am glad you had such a nice time at Mrs. Tip-top's, and I hope she noticed how carefully you had been brought up. You did not ask twice for anything, did you?"

Small Son.—No, indeed, ma; I didn't have to. Every time I finished and began scripping my plate with the spoon and smacking my lips the servant brought me some more without saying a word.—Drake's Magazine.

SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY.

—From the Gambia there are 20,000 tons of ground nuts annually exported, mostly to Marseilles, where the oil is extracted. Rice, cotton, maize and a grain known as Kous are also largely grown in Gambia, and the rubber tree is now being extensively cultivated.

—Queensland exported 32,629,000 pounds of wool in 1891, being 13,430,000 pounds more than in 1890. This colony also exported 5,340 tons of frozen meat in 1891, a gain of 2,318 tons over 1890. There were also shipments of 1,130 tons of preserved meats.

—The minimum age of employment on the continent is generally 12, or from 12 to 14. But then English children only work 28 hours per week, while in France and Germany the hours are 50, in Italy and Hungary 48, in Holland 60 and in Belgium 72.

—A colonial butter factory at Berry, N. S. W., received 84,457 gallons of milk in one month, yielding 31,253 pounds of butter, which sold for eighteen cents per pound. Farmers were paid five and one-half cents per gallon of milk, and it required twenty-six pounds of milk to make one of butter.

—Ostrich farming is one of the important industries in South Africa, which, as yet, furnishes the bulk of the ostrich plumes for the markets of the world. There are probably two hundred thousand domesticated ostriches in Cape Colony. Each bird is supposed to net his owner forty dollars per annum.

—The largest band-sawing machine in the world has recently been completed in England and sent to Tasmania. The machine can saw through a maximum depth of seventy-five inches and the carriage will accommodate logs fifty feet long and weighing about fifty tons. It is asserted that this saw cuts even faster than a circular saw, while wasting 75 per cent. less wood.

—A good illustration of the amount of change brought about by deep-sea investigations in our ideas of the distribution of the fishes is to be seen in the recent history of the discobolus. It is now shown that the discobolus, discarides, lumpfishes, sucking fishes, or sea snails, as they are variously called, are no longer restricted to the Atlantic and Pacific in their northern parts and to the Arctic ocean.

—The imperial eagle, the largest of species known, flies to a height from 10,000 feet to 15,000 feet. It is a native of South America and its habitat is among the lofty mountains of that country. Its power of flying to high altitudes is only exceeded by the condor of the Andes, which is said to have attained the height of six miles, or within one mile of the greatest height ever attained by a balloon.

—The following method of making paper transparent for copying drawings is adopted by the Austrian hydrographic bureau. The sheet of paper being placed over the drawing to be copied, it is lightly rubbed with a ball of cotton saturated with pure benzine. The tracing can then be readily made, owing to the transparency produced, and the benzine, on evaporating, leaves the paper opaque as before, and perfectly odorless. To secure satisfactory results, however, absolutely pure benzine must be used.

—Anthropologists all over the world are said to be aroused by the proposition of Prof. Putnam, of Harvard, to gather at the world's fair in Chicago living representatives of every race of aborigines to be found on the American continent, in their own houses and costumes. Should the proposal be carried out students of man from all over the world will flock to America for the occasion and seize eagerly this only opportunity ever offered. The cave-dwellers, whose mode of life Walt McDougal treats with much historical correctness in his recent fiction, will then be either demonstrated as actually existing or proved to have died out.—N. Y. World.

—The great robber of moisture on the plains in the west is evaporation. The activity of the winds is so great and constant that more vapor is raised from exposed water surfaces than in many regions of greater heat. The annual evaporation is seldom if ever less than four feet, and may rise to eight feet. Water storage upon high plains where there are no trees, if not wholly a delusion, is held to be somewhat delusive. More hopeful is the expedient of deep tillage, for, hidden from sun and winds in the loose soil and subsoil, the moisture will thus be preserved at the very spot where it is needed to sustain vegetation.

THE TREELESS PRAIRIES.

A Theory That They Owe Their Nude Condition to Fire.

Much attention has been attracted by a theory recently advocated with great ingenuity by Mr. Miller Christy, in England, that our western prairies owe their treeless condition to fire. This is by no means a new theory, but Mr. Christy has developed the arguments in its favor more fully than had been done before.

Readers of Cooper's "Leatherstocking Tales" will remember the vivid description of a prairie fire in the account of the last days of old Natty Bumppo, and nobody who has any knowledge of the power and sweep of such conflagrations will question their capacity for destruction.

According to Mr. Christy's view, the prairie fires, at the same time that they have exterminated the forest trees, have also enriched the soil by the successive deposits of many layers of ashes, which possess great value as a manure, so that the sweeping off of the trees has not been an unmixed evil.

Where great forests may once have hidden the face of the earth, according to this view, we now have the broad and wonderfully fertile grain fields of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, Nebraska and other states, and the argument that has wrought the transformation is that destructive and fearful element, fire.

In support of his views, Mr. Christy points to the facts that trees are found even on prairies in spots where they are to some extent protected from fire, and that young trees readily spring up in many places, only to be swept away again when the flames race across the grassy levels that surround them.—Youth's Companion.

PUNGENT PARAGRAPHS.

—"The whirled is mine," exclaimed young Sapply when he proposed to Miss Angel during the waltz and was accepted.—King's Jester.

—Smith—"Did your son pass his college examination without conditions?" Brown—"Yes; they said they'd take him under no conditions."—Boston Transcript.

—No Laughing Matter.—"Love laughs at locksmiths," she said to him encouragingly. "Yes, darling, I know," he replied sadly, "but not at No. 11 boots."—Detroit Free Press.

—"I thought you were going to make a fortune out of the manufacture of India rubber cigarette holders." "Didn't work. Fellows would smoke the holders right up before they noticed the difference."—Indianapolis Journal.

—Upstart—"I have made up my mind to become a journalist. What kind of paper would you advise me to go to work with?" Gruffy—"Well, I think you are best fitted to work with a piece of sand-paper."—Boston Courier.

—Disproportionate.—Perhaps it is too much to expect that the man who uses big words should furnish big ideas with them. Not so! He usually has the most tremendous idea of himself.—Argosy.

—Aunt (severely).—"As I glanced into the parlor last evening, I saw you with a young man's arm around you." Niece (calmly).—"Yes, aunt, I was waiting for you to pass the door and see us. Young men are very slippery nowadays, and one can't have too many witnesses."—An Unfashionable Pair.

—Mr. True and Miss Goodheart have concluded to withdraw from society. "What makes you think so?" "Why they've been engaged for three weeks and there is no talk yet about the affair being broken off."

—Plenty of Time.—Husband—"Your mistress went upstairs a little while ago to write a letter, Mary. Please go up and see if she has finished it, as I want to go down town." Waitress—"She has finished the letter, sir, and is just beginning on the postscript." Husband—"Then I can go to the office for an hour or two before she finishes."—N. Y. Press.

—All Pulling Together.—"Who is that long-haired young fellow who seems to have nothing to do?" inquired the casual stranger. "That's our poet," said the squire. "Town chips in an' pays his board and clothes." "Where are his works published?" "Ain't never been published. He's arranged to have 'em printed after he's dead. That's why we're tryin' to keep him alive long's we can."—Indianapolis Journal.

GERMAN SOCIALISM.

Origin and Growth of This Powerful Movement.

German socialism dates back to 1840 with the accession of the romantic Frederick William IV. to the throne. The social democracy owes its strength to the labors of Marx, although Lassalle was the originator of the idea. In 1864 there were only 4,010 socialists. In 1871 they cast in Berlin 6,695 votes; in 1873, 57,511. In 1884, in the elections to the Reichstag, the socialists polled 600,000 votes and returned twenty-four members.

Bismarck originated his anti-socialist legislation in 1878. The progress of socialistic ideas, not only among the masses, but through the universities, had become very marked, and the Iron Chancellor professed to be greatly alarmed as to the outcome of the movement. When in that year Hoedel and Nobeling made an attempt to take the life of the aged emperor the government made it the excuse for legislation. At first the law was directed only against the propaganda of socialism, and under it more than fifty newspapers were seized. But the law was gradually extended until the expression of socialistic opinions, the holding of meetings or the oral discussion of matters pertaining to it either in private or public, were prohibited. In short, about the only political right and possession that were not taken from the socialist was his vote. These laws, however, were not permanent, but had to be renewed from session to session. In 1890 Bismarck conceived the plan of making them permanent, and to give the police administration the power to expel a socialist from the empire at its pleasure. Surprisingly, though the government was largely in the ascendancy in the Reichstag, the bill was overwhelmingly defeated and Bismarck received his first crushing blow. The decision of the Reichstag was reaffirmed by the country, and Bismarck's anti-socialist law, instead of becoming a part of the permanent law of the country, was allowed, with the consent of Emperor William, to expire.

In 1871 there were 4,565 dwellings in Berlin that contained no room that could be heated; 76,832 lived underground in cellar dwellings; 95,423 people had only one room that could be heated. In the poorer districts there were 70 removals to 100 dwellings. The great increase since then in the manufacturing element has swollen this proportion.—Boston Journal.

London Cab Drivers.

Giving evidence before the labor commission, Mr. E. Dyke, a London cab driver, declared that cab drivers are, as a class, so poor that he did not believe five per cent. of them had a second suit of clothes or were not arrears of rent; while they were so much subject to vexatious prosecutions that he had known ninety cases before Mr. Newton, at Marlborough street, in one day. Were it not for the generosity of the public, he said, cab men could not live. He was for transferring the licensing of cabs from Scotland Yard to the county council.—Chicago Mail.

Her Acknowledgment.

Briggs—I presented Miss Tatter with a volume of my poems and wrote my name on the fly-leaf.

Griggs—What did she say to it? Briggs—She said she read my name with much interest.—Brooklyn Life.

Followed Advice.

Tom—Where is the man who followed everybody's advice? Jack—He is in the lunatic asylum. Tom—And the man who followed his own? Jack—O, he is in a dime museum.—Yankee Blade.